


REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 7, 11, 16 and 17 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

7. (Amended) Transcription product which can be obtained by transcription of at least said portion of the *gag* gene of a fragment according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

11. (Amended) Method according to claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~, characterized in that the biological sample is a biological fluid chosen from serum, plasma, synovial fluid and urine.

16. (Amended) Reagent for detecting, in a biological sample, an autoimmune disease or monitoring pregnancy, comprising at least one fragment according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, one transcription/translation product, as obtained according to the method of claim 11, one sythentic peptide belonging to SEQ ID NO. 31 or one protein according to claim 15 or 16~~.

17. (Amended) Use of a fragment according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, of a transcription/translation product, as obtained according to the method of claim 11, one sythentic peptide belonging to SEQ ID NO. 31 or one protein according to claim 15 or 16, for detecting, in a biological sample, susceptibility to an autoimmune disease, or monitoring pregnancy~~.